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ASD11
N6



A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 6

November -December 1999

Lynx...

Where We're At

In what is now the United States, the lynx once roamed an area stretching from Maine to Oregon. Their population within portions of this historic range is thought to be declining. Suspected as causes of the decline: human alteration of forests, overexploitation, competition from other species such as bobcats and coyotes, and encroachment of humans into their habitat.

The lynx was proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act in July 1998. And now the complex task of gathering needed scientific information and writing the strategic plans that chart a course of action has arrived.

The lynx present a difficult case because little is known about the species. It is also difficult because it involves coordination with so many entities, including Regions 1, 2, 4, 6, and 9.

The Rocky Mountain Research Station, the R-1 Regional Office, the University of Montana and scientists from Canada and elsewhere have assembled the needed background. *The Lynx Science Report* has been completed and is now on the internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lynx.html>.

An interagency federal team involving the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service has completed an important document based on the science team report, *The Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy* (LCAS). This document provides guidance for the federal managers to proceed with lynx conservation across its range.

"The lynx present a difficult case because little is known about the species."

The interagency steering committee for lynx has oversight for all activities regarding completion and implementation of these documents. This team is led by Deputy Regional Forester Kathy McAllister.



A decision is due January 8, 2000, by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on whether the lynx will be listed. The regions are gearing up. Translated into real terms, this will mean that every Forest Service project in the regions will be using the LCAS to screen projects at the district, supervisors office, and regional levels for potential effects on the lynx.

Where's the Lynx?

— see story on Page 2.

Where's the Lynx?

by Gary Hanvey,
Regional Office

Where's the lynx? That's the question many land managers across the country are asking biologists since the Canada lynx was proposed for listing as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Although a considerable amount is known about lynx in northern portions of its range in Canada, the same is not necessarily true of lynx populations in the United States. A critical first step to lynx conservation in southern portions of its range is determining the size and location of present lynx populations and habitat.

We have a fair idea of where lynx once occurred, but determining if lynx still exist within that historic range is a much more difficult task. These mountain cats can be shy and elusive, and their historic range covers a large area across the northern United States from Maine to Washington, into the southern Rocky Mountain states of Colorado and Utah, and south into the Oregon Cascades.

To determine where in the U.S. lynx still occur, as well as where they do not, a Forest Service-led national lynx survey was begun in the summer of 1999. The survey is a coordinated effort involving the Rocky Mountain Research Station, the Northern Region, and the University of Montana.

The national survey makes use of a rigorous sampling methodology, or protocol, developed by Kevin McKelvey at the research station. He employs a grid sampling system that can detect lynx at very low population numbers and provides a reliable way to determine whether lynx are present or absent after 2-3 years of sampling. Other methods such as remote cameras



Right: Researcher removing hair snag pad nailed to tree.

Above: Hair samples being pulled from snag pad. Sample is undergoing DNA analysis at Rocky Mountain Research Station lab.

and snow tracking are either expensive and bulky or inconclusive.

Essential to this survey is a sampling method called "hair snagging," where survey detection stations are installed in suspected lynx habitat with the hope of collecting lynx hair for DNA analysis. This "hair snagging" technique was originally developed and tested on the Kootenai National Forest by Dr. John Weaver a few years ago.

To date, 44 surveys on national forests within Regions 1, 2, 4, 6, and 9 have been completed. Three additional surveys will be conducted in Minnesota and Wisconsin this winter. The completed surveys have generated a very large number of hair samples that are now being identified to species at a newly constructed lab at the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

It is hoped that identification of hair samples collected during the 1999 field season will be completed by late winter, and some questions of where lynx still occur in the United States will be answered.



The "hair snagging" technique used in the survey involves suspending an aluminum pie plate from a tree branch to lure lynx (and other mammals as well) to a hair "snagging pad" nailed at knee height to the bole of a near-by tree. Each pad is baited with a mixture of scent lure and catnip and contains a dozen small nails that protrude outwardly from the tree bole. The idea is to draw a lynx to the station and entice it to rub the catnip-laced pad. Hair left by any "visitors" can then be carefully collected and packaged for DNA analysis.

The Deal With Off Highway Vehicles

America's public lands offer visitors a whole spectrum of experiences in the backcountry, from hiking and fishing, to woodcutting and hunting. Some of those uses occur where off-highway vehicles (OHV) are allowed but limited to designated roads.

But there are other large areas of public land in Montana and the Dakotas—16 million acres—where motorized vehicles (motorcycles, four-wheel drive vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, etc.) are unrestricted and can travel anywhere on roads or cross-country. It is this unrestricted access that poses major concern for the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Motorized vehicle use has been climbing at a dramatic rate, leaving public land managers behind with out-of-date management plans regulating their use. OHV's in inappropriate areas can promote the spread of noxious weeds, create user conflicts, cause

erosion, damage cultural sites, and disrupt wildlife and wildlife habitat.

To come to grips with the situation, Region One and Montana BLM staff have conducted a review of current regulations. They also co-sponsored the completion of an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the issue covering Montana and lands managed by Region One in the Dakotas. (Idaho will be addressed at a future date.)

The draft EIS is out now. The final EIS, along with the official decision on how the two agencies intend to manage OHV access, will be available by June 2000. Snowmobiles will not be addressed because it is felt snowmobile access is different enough to warrant a separate analysis in the future.

Region One and the BLM have announced the alternative they prefer at this point for managing OHV use. This proposal would not allow motorized cross-country travel except for: emergency and administrative use; lease and

permit holders unless specifically prohibited in their permit or lease; camping within 300 feet along each side of existing roads or trails; game retrieval in portions of central and eastern Montana; access for the disabled by permit; and firewood and Christmas tree cutting under permit.

The BLM and Region One have been hosting a series of open houses to offer an avenue to talk with the public about the situation. "This is a very controversial issue nationwide," said forest planner Dick Kramer with the Lolo National Forest, "and one of our goals is to work with the public to determine the best alternative for the resource and our public."

The website for information about the project, including the draft EIS and Summary is: www.fs.fed.us/r1. For additional information, contact Jodi DeHerrera (Forest Service) at 406-758-5332, or Jerry Majerus (BLM) at 406-538-1924.

by Michael Donald,
Kootenai National Forest

The Northern Region is testing a new way of working with the public on projects that pair harvesting of forest products with land restoration activities. The concept is called "land stewardship contracting." According to Regional Forester Dale Bosworth, it is "a process that emphasizes what we leave on the land, not what we take from it."

One of the nine pilot projects in the region is in the Three Rivers Ranger District of the Kootenai National Forest, in collaboration with the Yaak community. Proceeds from harvested forest products will go back into the land via improvements in such areas as reforestation, fuels treatment, water quality, stream survey stream rehabilitation, and noxious weed control.

The Yaak Community and Land Stewardship Contracting

All the work, including removal of forest products and the improvements, are included in one contract. Normally a contract would be written and awarded solely by Forest Service personnel. With this pilot project, the scope of the work, along with the evaluation criteria for awarding the contract is being developed in partnership with the Yaak Steering Committee.

The formation of the steering committee is another innovation. Members were elected to work with the Three Rivers district, with 75 percent of valley residents participating in the vote.

The project is planned for 2000. According to Kootenai National Forest Supervisor Bob Castaneda, "This stewardship contract allows the local Yaak community to have more influence



Bob Lambrecht, project silviculturist with the Kootenai NF, discusses Yaak stewardship pilot project with Steering Committee and interested community members.

on how land management goals are carried out on national forests near their homes." Castaneda concluded, "The community will help determine how the timber proceeds will benefit their community. This legislation provides a level of self-determination that hasn't been available until now."



A Big-Time Accomplishment

by Harris Maceo,
Regional Office

The terms "FFIS," "deferred maintenance," and "Infra" may not be household words to the public, but they have a lot of meaning to people in the Forest Service.

The background on these programs and priority activities is by now familiar to many people. Over the past 11 years, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit opinions on the Forest Service financial statements have been less than desirable. One, if not the major reason, has been the agency's accounting of its real property assets.

Chief Dombeck made his views known that financial accountability would be a Forest Service priority. For fiscal year 1999, the agency made a commitment not only to the USDA and the agency's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), but also to the Office of Management and Budget that our property records would withstand audit scrutiny.

Things were put on a fast track when a memo from the Forest Service's CFO Vincette Goerl, dated April 19, 1999, was issued to all Regional Foresters and Station Directors. The memo stated that they must complete physical inventories on all personal and real property assets, complete all data required for deferred maintenance, validate all deferred maintenance and inventory in the new Infrastructure database by September 30, 1999.

It was a gargantuan effort because staff at the districts and supervisor offices had to make field surveys to verify every physical asset—every bridge, trail, outhouse, picnic table, and every improvement defined as real property. Employees had done physical inventory in the past, but never of this magnitude.

Karen Mitchell, budget analyst with the Clearwater National Forest, explained the particulars. "The project

was two-fold," Karen said. "It included district staff going out to determine what maintenance needs to be done over the next five years. They also had to do a physical inventory—literally measuring sizes of buildings, for example, and getting square footage."

"The big workload for us at the supervisor's office," Karen added, "was to research the files to get supporting documentation for each value we assigned to an asset. Now we have a separate hard file for each asset. Every toilet now has a file folder!"

"In the middle of all this, we had an OIG audit," Karen sighed. But she said the end result of the new FFIS system should give us more up-to-date financial information. "The Infra system will be able to quickly call up what our assets are and their values—as any good business would be able to do," Karen stated.

September 30 came and went. Region One made the deadline, which says it all.

Luring Tourists to North Dakota

by Steve Williams,
Dakota Prairie
Grasslands

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands is showing it has star power! The eye-opener was the recent nation-wide publicity surrounding the opening of the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Many people in North Dakota didn't know the trail was on national grasslands, including some people within the North Dakota State Tourism Department.

As a result of all the media response, the tourism department and the grasslands recently formed a major partnership to enhance and promote trail and birding opportunities on public lands in North Dakota.

The kick-off meeting was held on October 14 in Bismarck and included representatives from the tourism depart-

ment, the North Dakota Game & Fish Department, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, the BLM and the USDA Forest Service. It marked the first time these agencies had come together to discuss outdoor recreation opportunities in the state.

The group is focusing on birding and trail opportunities because North Dakota has more waterfowl and neotropical migrants than any other state. Birding is one of the fastest growing outdoor recreation opportunities in America. Another draw is mountain biking. The Maah Daah Hey Trail has attracted mountain bikers from all over the

country to the North Dakota Badlands.

"North Dakota is the least visited state in America," stated Joanne Burke, with the state tourism department. "We think we have a lot to offer on the public lands in North Dakota, and by working together we can enhance these growth opportunities."

A partnership of the state and federal agencies will be formalized later this year with a Memorandum of Understanding. Other action items the group will take on this year include the development of a birding trail map for the state, sponsorship of three birding festivals, linked outdoor North Dakota web sites, development of a North Dakota birding guide and a trails inventory for North Dakota.



Burning *"Outside the Box"*



Ignition specialist Mike Stevenson lights a strip on the "Hubbard" prescribed burn.

by Allen Chrisman,
North Zone Fire Staff, IPNF

At first glance, the scene looked familiar. A column of smoke rising from farmlands in the Kootenai Valley, a sight common for mid-September outside of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, as farmers burn their wheat stubble. But on closer inspection, the green fire engines and firefighters clad in their yellow and green nomex fire-resistant clothing, gave clues that this was not a normal farm operation!

The prescribed fire crew at the Bonners Ferry Ranger District, led by prescribed fire manager Kirk Westfall, was expanding its experience "outside the box" in torching a thousand acres of wheat stubble.

The project began with the purchase of the Deon Hubbard farm by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The farm includes a thousand acres of valley bottomland lying between the Kootenai River and the Selkirk Mountains near the Canadian border. The Fish and Game will convert portions of the farm (historic floodplains) back into wetlands and bring back native vegetation.

To do this, Fish and Game first wanted to prepare the site by burning off

the stubble. Since they do not have local fire expertise, Bonners Ferry District Ranger Elaine Zieroth saw an excellent opportunity to assist and at the same time give district folks an opportunity to observe fire fueled by grasslands.

Dan Pennington of the Kootenai Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provided the equipment and operator to complete tractor plow lines around the perimeter. The Natural Resources Conservation Service provided funding for the prescribed burn, conducted by Bonners Ferry District staff.

The burn went extremely well, with ignition specialists Will Parker and Mike Stevenson using two 4-wheelers and propane backpack torches. Smoke dispersed quickly and avoided both Bonners Ferry to the south, and Creston, British Columbia, to the northeast.

The burn was an overall success, meeting the objectives of the Fish and Game while coming in under budget. It was an excellent example of how four different agencies can work together to implement ecosystem restoration.

Big Year for Fires in Southwest Montana



By Jack de Golia
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Usually by mid-November, most wildland fire fighters in Montana have put away their tools, drained the water tanks in their trucks, bundled up against the cold, and headed off to school or other jobs.

But 1999 was different, said officials at the Dillon Interagency Dispatch Center. Fire fighters battled 132 fires in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest alone in 1999, making it the biggest year for fire starts in the national forest since 1970.

Continued unseasonably warm temperatures and dry conditions kept fire fighters busy throughout southwest Montana through the late fall into November and hunting season. Since November 1, they responded to 23 wildfires in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge alone, (not to mention the fires on BLM, state and private lands Forest Service crews helped with, too). Nearly all were started by hunters' warming and camp fires. Several fires started from land owners' debris burning.

Forest Service staff urged hunters to think about whether they really need a fire and to plan ahead about how they'd put their fire out if it got away from them.

A Report to Y'all from Fort Jackson, South Carolina

By Zane Fulbright,
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

BOOM! BOOM! The sound of freedom rings out as we continue to excavate next to the Remagen Hand Grenade Range. Welcome to Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

On September 12, four Northern Region archeologists, Milo McLeod and Jennifer Eberlien, Lolo National Forest; Richard Newton, Lewis & Clark National Forest; and Zane Fulbright, Nez Perce National Forest arrived in South Carolina to conduct archaeological test excavations of cultural resource sites at Fort Jackson. The installation is the largest initial-entry training center in the U.S. Army, training approximately 33,000 soldiers annually.

Our detail began with a visit with Fort Jackson's cultural resource manager and a tour of the sites scattered across the 52,000 acres that comprise Fort Jackson. Following the tour, we all completed the UXO Recognition Class. For the uninitiated, that stands for Unexploded Ordnance Recognition. Ah, the perks of excavating on a military training ground!

After being there just a few short days we had the dubious privilege of experiencing Hurricane Floyd. Fortunately we were spared the worst of the storm and experienced nothing more than 20-30 mile per hour winds and an inch or two of rain. We all developed an affinity to The Weather Channel however.

Even with the hurricane, grenades, and snakes, we managed to



l to r: Jennifer Eberlien, Lolo NF; Richard Newton, Lewis & Clark NF; Zane Fulbright, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF; and Milo McLeod, Lolo NF.

complete the testing. The artifacts were exciting for us novitiates — Woodland and Mississippian potsherds dating from 2500 B.C. to 1100 A.D., antebellum ceramics, Middle Archaic quartz projectile points from 3000 to 6000 years old.

The following is a list of some of the things we have learned during our 18-day detail to Fort Jackson:

- Southern hospitality is alive and well.
- Thoms Creek pottery (1000 B.C.) and shrapnel (1945) can be excavated from the same level.
- Black water snakes move through the woods pretty well and are attracted to archaeological sites.
- Oatmeal is better than grits.
- Chiggers are more irritating than painful.
- Fire ants are both irritating *and* painful.
- HOO-AH!!! (It's an Army Thing.)

Boneheads WANTED!

by George Bain
St. Joe Ranger District, IPNF

Plates are full, budgets going down, 10 number 1 priorities. Harried and short of time, you find yourself doing things the same old way—a way that never made sense to begin with.

If this sounds familiar, then how about helping us help you. The Region One Partnership Council is looking for those processes, reports, protocols, systems, requirements and any other demands on your time that make you want to say, "What kind of boneheaded thing is this?" If you have such a bonehead process, put together a short write-up about it and send it to: *bhead/r1*.

In this period of increasing demands, we need to find ways to work smarter and more efficiently. So, no matter what your job within the organization, send us your absurd, illogical, and plumb ridiculous boneheaded processes. The more information you can include the better. Is it manual direction, upward reporting requirements, built-in redundancy, computer systems demands, or just the way your boss wants it? Do you have a solution to fix it?

The Partnership Council will take your comments and see if we can initiate a process to rectify the problem. All comments will be held confidential if you desire.

It's LUCKY 13 for the Clearwater!

by Jennefer Sundberg
Clearwater National Forest

This year marked the thirteenth annual Take Pride in the Clearwater project on the Clearwater National Forest. And the number 13 had some interesting adventures in store for those attending.

This year's project was scheduled, as it has been for 13 years, for the third week in July. Unfortunately, by the third week in July there was still almost 13 feet of snow in places along the Lolo Motorway, where the project takes place each year. The event was rescheduled, a new date was set for Friday, August 13. That's right, the 13th TPIC project on Friday the 13th.

One week before the event, things looked ominous: fire activity was picking up and lightning was forecast for the weekend. But Friday the 13th brought a cold, rainy weekend, although not bad enough to dampen the spirits of the 50 volunteers who attended this year's event. In fact some people saw the weather as a plus. As Norm Steadman said, "The bugs and the dust ain't a problem."

This year's project focused on sprucing up the campground at Rocky Ridge Lake in preparation for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial observation. The forest was awarded a Chief's grant to help fund the materials for the job and our group of

volunteers provided the labor to get the job done.

When the weekend was over, new picnic tables, tent pads, and surfacing were in place at each campsite, and a new, one-of-a-kind, log toilet structure was in place at the campground. Maintenance work on portions of the historic trail was completed also; a core group of volunteers cleared the trail and constructed new waterbars in some sections.

Saturday evening, the weather cleared and we all gathered around the campfire to enjoy the meal prepared by Norm Steadman and his crew. Several volunteers, including Norm, were honored with replicas of the Lewis and Clark Peace Medals for their attendance at all 13 project events. Awards were given to the youngest and oldest participants, and the volunteer traveling the farthest.

North Fork District Ranger Doug Gober expressed his appreciation to those Clearwater employees who gave their personal time to support the Take Pride in the



Volunteers construct the one-of-a-kind, log toilet!

Clearwater project. In addition to Gober, forest employees who attended this year's event were Dennis Talbert, Diana Jones, Zach Landmark, Bruce Martinek, Karen Mitchell, Kris Perry, George Perry, Tom Keller, Dean Roach, Rick Kusicko, Hart Paulat, Wendell Davis, Tim Lewis, Doug Olive, Denice Bunch, Justin Schubert, Jennefer Sundberg and, of course, Norm Steadman.

Connecting With Students

by Dave Vingl, Stevensville Ranger District
Bitterroot National Forest

What do you get when you mix an advanced high school biology class, six Forest Service resource specialists, a learning center coordinator, and a beautiful autumn day in the field? A successful day spent learning about our natural resources and the Forest Services' approach to land management.

This past October, Bitterroot National Forest employees organized a "hands on" field trip to Little Smith Creek west of Victor, Montana. They were joined by 14 Hamilton High School students who were given the chance to talk with Forest Service specialists in the areas of silviculture, forest ecology, fire management, and wildlife biology.

The group visited four sites that illustrated some form of Forest Service management activity. Students and Bitterroot staff talked about real-life issues dealing with topics such as forest succession, wildlife habitat requirements, ecosystem management tools, agency policies, and economics. Students also had the opportunity to record data using forestry instruments such as the compass, clinometer, logger's tape, and increment borer.

About a week later, written comments from the students came rolling in to the Stevensville Ranger Station. Some excerpts:

- "We realize now all of the work and detail that goes into managing the forest and the Forest Service's knowledge of tying together all aspects of forest management. We are now aware of the work that the Forest Service does in consideration for the well being of the ecology, economy, society, and political aspects of the area that we live in." Justine and Ali
- "I learned that fire is an important tool in forest management." Matt
- "The information that we learned in the classroom made a lot more sense once we were able to use it hands-on."
- "I knew that the Forest Service was there to help maintain our forests...On the trip I found out that the Forest Service did much more than just monitor the forests. I also found out that the Forest Service goes to great measures to try to please as many groups of people as they can while still maintaining healthy forests." Brock

Naturalist Program a Hit

by Patty Holmes and Teresa Wenum, Flathead National Forest

"Great program!" "Entertaining and Informative." "Keep up the good work." "We need more of this type of program." These are a few of the many written comments received from audiences attending presentations during the seventh year for the Summer Naturalist Program.

During the 10-week season, over 1,700 visitors enjoyed 57 evening programs, hosted at 9 different campgrounds and resorts in the Flathead National Forest area. Through the programs, visitors learned about the diverse natural resources found in the area and the ties people have to this landscape. Presentations about local wildlife, forests, fire's role on the landscape, plants, history, storytelling and Blackfeet culture captured audience attention.

In addition to the two program naturalists, a pool of twenty-six talented "guest naturalists" from the community, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Glacier National Park and the forest presented programs. One of the more popular programs featured Jack Gladstone,

Blackfeet Indian songwriter/storyteller, who drew over 100 guests for each of his presentations.

Drawn to his personable nature and talent, visitors appreciated the opportunity to learn about the Blackfeet culture firsthand. "Crittman" made learning about wolves fun with his unusual character and audience involvement.

A big thank you goes to our partners for making these programs possible! The West Glacier KOA and Glacier Campground have continued their support for several summers. Meadow Lake Resort returned this season for their second year. For the last two years, the Flathead Economic Policy Center helped to support "guest naturalists" from the community. Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Pyramid Enterprises joined the program for the 1999 season.

The Summer Naturalist Program offers a wonderful opportunity to help visitors understand and appreciate our local natural resource, historic, and cultural values. We look forward to the continuation of the program into the next century.

Clearwater's Newest Ranger

The Palouse District Ranger has a new ranger, **Larry Ross**, who arrived on the job September 12. Larry comes to Region One from a district ranger position in Walden, Colorado, a small,



Larry and Dee Ross.

isolated community of 800. Walden is nestled in a high mountain valley in north central Colorado. The nearest town is some 65 miles away.

Larry got his start with the Forest Service in 1968 as a forestry aid on the Umatilla National Forest. Following college, he worked as a soil scientist for the Soil Conservation Service (1971-75), the Flathead National Forest (1975-77), the Nez Perce National Forest (1977-79), and the Shoshone National Forest (1979-85). Later positions include forester for the Tensleep Ranger District, Bighorn National Forest (1985-90); supervisory forest administrator for North Park District, Routt National Forest (1990-95); and then district ranger, North Park Ranger District, Routt National Forest, in Lakewood, Colorado.

Larry and wife Dee have three grown children, two sons and a daughter. "Dee and I are empty nesters," Larry says, "except for one old tom cat and three horses. We like to hike and horseback. Dee likes to cross stitch and do crafts. I like to work with the horses and hunt and fish."

It's been an easy transition, according to district employee Eileen Ball. "With Larry's knowledge of the area and the people here, he fits right in."

Nancy Jemmett Recognized for Volunteer Efforts

by Laura Smith,
Nez Perce National Forest

Nancy Jemmett of Grangeville, Idaho, was recently recognized for her dedicated efforts to the Urban Interface Program that has served to heighten local fire prevention awareness and preparedness in Idaho County. Nancy was presented with a Nez Perce National Forest brass buckle, a Certificate of Appreciation and a letter of commendation at an Idaho County Commissioner's meeting at the Grangeville Courthouse.



Byron Bonney, Nez Perce NF fire staff officer, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Nancy Jemmett. Photo by Laura Smith

Some of the things Nancy did to help the Nez Perce National Forest spread the word include: contributed text, photos and ideas to the 1998 urban interface display, staffed the Forest Service booth at the Lewiston Home & Garden Show in April 1999 and at the Idaho County Fair in August 1999.

Nancy coordinated with the Prescott National Forest to loan the Wildland Home Fire Risk Meter to the forest. The meter was used as an interactive tool with the Urban Interface Display. It encouraged people to participate and helped them determine whether their homes were fire-safe or not.

Nancy also provided videos "Making Your Home Fire Wise" and "Fire Safe - Inside and Out" to show the public at our booths; wrote the "Be Prepared...Be Alert" evacuation information sheets for public distribution; and worked with a local insurance company to provide inventory forms for public distribution.

Nancy possesses a willingness, cheerfulness and a solid desire to educate and she is very much appreciated by the community.

Supervisor Named for Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

by Jack deGolia,
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Janette Kaiser has been named the new Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest Supervisor, replacing Debbie Austin. She begins her duties January 24.

Kaiser has been supervisor of the Manti-La Sal National Forest in east-central Utah since 1995. Prior to that she worked for several years in the Forest Service's headquarters in Washington, D.C., on the rangeland ecosystem staff. She's also worked as a district ranger at the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri, and as a range specialist at two national forests in Arizona.

Kaiser began her Forest Service career in 1978 on a fire crew in Arizona. She earned a B.S. degree in natural resource management in 1981 with an emphasis in range ecology from Arizona State University. She was also a senior fellow at Harvard University in 1996.

Kaiser has a daughter at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, and a son who's an engineer in Utah.

"Working with rural forests and communities is my passion," Kaiser stated. "The big bonus for me is having my grandson close by to visit," she added. Kaiser's grandson lives in Bozeman.

New Job Breaks New Ground

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest recently broke new ground in creating a job unlike any in the region. Its focus is on managing how people travel in the 3.3-million-acre forest.

Cynthia Tencick, the district ranger in Wise River, will move to Dillon to lead the effort. She starts her new duties around January 3.

The announcement follows close on the heels of the publication of a state-wide environmental impact statement on off-highway vehicles. "We're hearing from the public that travel management should be a top priority," Cindy said, "so the timing in creating this job couldn't be better."

As recreational use of forest land increase, so have conflicts between user groups. A unified, forest-wide approach to handling access promises to be quicker and more efficient. The alternative would be to complete planning piecemeal, district by district.

"Our first step will be to get a team together," Cindy explained, "look at the overall picture of where the recreation opportunities are, where use makes sense, and get down to specifics."

RO Fills Positions

The Procurement and Property unit in the Regional Office has been through a name change. It's now Acquisition Management. Three positions have been filled recently. **Laurie Hamers** transferred from the Helena National Forest December 6 as a supervisory contract specialist. RO employees **Sandra Sandry** and **Lynette Band** filled two contract specialist positions.

Lynette's first job with the agency was as a stay-in-school office automation clerk in 1991 and has worked her way up as procurement clerk, procurement assistance, procurement technician, and, since 1997, as purchasing agent.

Sandra first worked for the agency in 1986 as an initial attack fire fighter on the Missoula District Fire Crew, Lolo National Forest. Other jobs: business management trainee, Clearwater National Forest; Powell Ranger District in fire prevention, recreation and business management; administrative assistant and later contract specialist trainee, Clearwater National Forest; and with the RO Property and Procurement unit.

Laurie has been with the Forest Service for 17 years, starting as a receptionist on the Livingston Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest. She began her contracting career as a trainee on the Clearwater National Forest in 1988, then moved on as a contract specialist on the Helena National Forest in 1990.

A New Member of the Club

Retired Region One purchasing agents recently got together in Butte to welcome a new "member of the club"—**LaVerna Moothart**, who retired from the Helena National Forest this past October 30.

It is the first time these former co-workers have gathered as a group in about 10 years. Retirees (standing, left to right) include Christine Kolar (Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF), Marie Cassidy (Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF), Cherie Hawe (Gallatin NF), Doug Combs (Lolo NF), Vi Stimac (Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF), Helen Schievelbein (Gallatin NF), and LaVerna Moothart. Jan George, who currently works as a purchasing agent with the Missoula Technology and Development Center in Missoula, is kneeling at right.



Mike Oliver Detailed To Bicentennial Caucus

by Margaret
Gorski,
Lewis and Clark
Bicentennial
Coordinator



Mike Oliver

Mike Oliver, with the Helena National Forest, is now assisting with Congressional coordination related to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

Communities and states are planning activities that may impact visitation to public sites on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Good communications is important between all parties, including the states, Congress, and the Federal agencies who are developing plans to protect the trail and provide enhanced services during the Bicentennial.

In response to this increased activity and demand on Congress from the 11 Lewis and Clark Trail states, both the Senate and the House of Representatives have formed a Bicentennial caucus. (A Congressional caucus is a group of Congressional members who wish to coordinate their work with other states with similar interests.)

Mike will serve as a communication link by providing staff assistance to the Bicentennial caucus through Congressman Rick Hill, co-chair of the caucus. Mike will be the state contact for another agency detailee (provided by the National Park Service) who is also working for the caucus from Congressman Hill's Washington D.C. office.

When he is not working for the caucus, Mike will also be assisting Margaret Gorski, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial field coordinator for the Forest Service.

Deputy Forest Supervisor Selected

by Bonnie Dearing
Lewis and Clark National Forest

George Weldon has been selected as the new deputy forest supervisor for the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Weldon worked for the last eight years as the Townsend District Ranger on the Helena National Forest. He should arrive in Great Falls in mid-January.

Prior to his stint on the Helena National Forest, Weldon served as assistant district ranger on the Sheridan Ranger District, Beaverhead National Forest. He also worked as fire, timber and minerals assistant for the Beartooth Ranger District, Custer National Forest, for nearly three years. Originally from northern California, Weldon attended Humboldt State



George Weldon

University where he earned a bachelor's degree in forest management.

Weldon's interests include hunting, fishing, camping and hiking - anything outdoors. Also, he participates in youth mentoring activities, community organizations and service groups. Weldon's wife Lee teaches second grade in Townsend and enjoys being involved in youth activities. The couple have two children.



The NEW Health and Safety Code Handbook is out!

Capturing History at Reunion 2000

by Larry Cron, Forest Service retiree

Plans are being made to capture some important history on tape at the Forest Service Reunion 2000, September 4-8. A team consisting of R-1 employees, retirees and spouses, and a volunteer met October 14 in Missoula to discuss the oral history project, what they want to accomplish, and how to do it.

Mike Ryan, forest archaeologist for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, served as the principal training instructor and Gene Colling, R-1 video specialist, provided input on video.

A follow-up training session to do some actual interviews is planned for next spring, tentatively in conjunction with the spring Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association business meeting. Dave Filius from Great Falls and Bob and Joyce Rehfeld from Grangeville stayed over for the training session.

Retirees and spouses attending: Dave Filius, Bob and Joyce Rehfeld, Jim and Ruth Freeman, Mike Hardy, Gary Nelson, Bill Gabriel, and Larry Cron. In addition to Mike and Gene, other Forest Service employees present: Becky Timmons, Kootenai National Forest; Lynne Sholty and Jennifer Eberlien, Lolo National Forest; and Carol Ray, a volunteer, came from Libby, Montana.

Custer's Last Stand

by Scott Belknap,
Missoula Aerial
Fire Depot

December 31 marks the end a career that made a lasting impact on the smokejumper program. **Dave Custer** is retiring as the Smokejumper Center base manager, culminating a 30-year career with the Forest Service.

Dave began his career immediately after high school working with the Aerial Photo Lab in Missoula. He worked a fire assignment that year and caught the "fire bug." He was accepted as a smokejumper rookie in 1970 after two seasons with the St. Joe inter-regional fire crew. He spent his second season with the BLM smokejumper program in Fairbanks, Alaska. Dave returned to Missoula in 1972 for the duration of his career.

Dave became the unit-training foreman in 1985. In that capacity, he detailed in the off-season to the Northern Rockies Training Center. In 1989, he accepted the center's aviation training specialist position but maintained his jump status and availability to assist the jumpers during periods of high

fire activity. In 1996, Dave returned to the smokejumper operation as base manager.

Before Dave took on managerial responsibilities, he was particularly noted as a talented parachute technician. His contributions included constructing the prototype FS-12 parachute during its development. He conceived, designed, and built a one-piece jump suit, designed the H-5 parachute harness, and the center pull reserve parachute deployment system.

At the Northern Rockies Training Center Dave's most significant achievement was to design and develop a computer simulation for air attack training. This application opened the field for computerized simulator training in the fire arena. Dave also played a major role in national aviation course curriculum, handbooks, and guides.

With the smokejumper program, Dave solidified and expanded smokejumper contributions to the National Prescribed and Fire Use programs. He is also



Dave Custer

credited with furthering the unit's diversity recruitment and showing commendable progress in injury reduction and overall program safety. Personally, Dave amassed 172 fire jumps and 409 total injury-free jumps.

Dave is now the proud owner of a Harley Davidson motorcycle and plans to become a road warrior in retirement. Good luck, Dave, and thanks for all you have given to the smokejumper program.



Another example of Larry's "Most Efficient Level" approach. He wanted to land as close to the sleeping accommodations as possible.

After a 29-year career with 27 seasons smokejumping, **Larry Wright** decided to retire. Larry is hanging up his toggles in February and returning to his "gentleman's ranch" outside Augusta, Montana.

Most notable about Larry's career is 247 fire jumps and 450 injury-free total jumps. Larry trained and jumped in Missoula in 1971. He transferred and jumped out of the Grangeville, Idaho base from 1972 through 1986. He returned to Missoula to be closer to his

family and ranch in 1987 to complete his smokejumping career.

When asked to recall his most exciting fire jump, Larry stated, without hesitation, a dicey drop on the Lassen National Forest. Larry felt trepidation from the start since the fires and jump spot options were limited to corpses of trees surrounded by hard pan lava flows. Topping it off, an approaching thunderhead promised to add roller coaster winds.

On opening, Larry found himself trapped in a downdraft that accelerated his descent to three times the normal

Jumper's Away

by Scott Belknap,
Missoula Aerial
Fire Depot

rate. He was convinced that his chute had torn or was malfunctioning. As he determined that a downdraft was the culprit, he selected a small patch of trees to land in that was conveniently located adjacent to a suitable heli-spot.

When the descending column of air hit the ground, it diverted horizontally, taking Larry with it. His final approach was performed parallel to the ground before he was softly deposited in a brush patch. Because of his skill and luck, he walked away from that jump unscathed.

Larry will be remembered as a respected, confident, quiet leader that led by example. Coworkers offered other adjectives including reliable, capable, independent, unassuming, always prepared, and incredibly effective. We will miss most in his absence hand-cranked ice cream on spike base assignments and his multi-tool pliers.

Good fortune, Larry, and we will see you in hunting camp.



John Myhre, fire management officer on the St. Joe Ranger District, of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, retired October 1.

John's career began on the Wind River Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest as an engineering technician in 1968. A graduate of the University of Idaho, John's background included a variety of fire positions. In 1974 he was on the Palouse Ranger District fire crew and moved on to join the St. Joe interregional fire crew for two years. This crew was the forerunner of the now St. Joe Hotshots.

In 1977-78 John was based at the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot as a smokejumper. In 1979 John returned to the Idaho Panhandle in the position of dispatcher and in the fall was promoted to crew boss of the interregional crew and remained in that position until 1988.

In 1988 John received a promotion to the Avery Ranger District as assistant fire management officer until 1999, when yet another promotion won him the position of fire management officer, from which he retired.

John will now join his wife Lynnette and sons Marshall and Graydon in the operation of the family business. The family operates the Rusty Gate Tree Farm on the Harrison Flats which produces Christmas and ornamental trees.

After 22 years with the Kootenai National Forest, **Janet Tincher** retired on September 24, 1999.

Jannie began her career with the Forest Service in 1975. She worked on the Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts and with the North Zone Engineering on the Kootenai throughout her career. Her latest duties were as time and leave clerk on the Fortine Ranger District.

Jannie's plans for retirement include working as a team teacher for Head Start in Eureka, Montana, as well as gardening, riding horses and enjoying time with her family.

*by Jeannie Spooner
Kootenai National Forest*

Randy Gay, budget coordinator for the Regional Office's Forest & Rangeland, will retire December 31. Randy has worked over 33 years for the Forest Service, all in Region One.

A Montana native from Great Falls, Randy began working for the Forest Service while a student at the University of Montana. He was employed first as a fire lookout on Ant Flat Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest. In subsequent summers he worked on inventory crews for the Lewis and Clark National Forest, Gallatin National Forest, and Lubrecht Experimental Forest.

After graduating from college, Randy secured his first permanent position with the Lolo National Forest in forest inventory. Other positions which he held include: pre-sale and timber administration, Superior Ranger District, Lolo National Forest (1966-69); small timber sales prep, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, Kaniksu National Forest (1969); forester, Anaconda Forest Products (1969-70); Forest Service representative for I-90 construction and timber sales prep, Superior Ranger District (1970-75); several assignments on the Gallatin National Forest including zone responsibilities with the Custer National Forest as timber planner, forest planning, timber sales contracting, Grizzly habitat mapping and leader of the Gallatin centralized timber organization (1975-89); and budget coordinator/



Randy Gay

timber planner with the RO Forest & Rangeland (1989-99).

Randy and his wife Sherry have two daughters, both of whom live in Missoula, and one grandchild, with another arriving in May. They will remain in Missoula. Randy plans to continue running marathons, ice fish, work on genealogy, and delve into many other projects that have been waiting. Sherry will continue to work at the Comprehensive Development Center in Missoula where she is a family support specialist.

After 30 years in Federal law enforcement, regional special agent **Tom King** retired December 31. He had 5 years with the FBI and 25 years with the Forest Service.

As his final assignment, Tom developed a guide to managing protest activities on national forest land. It should be finalized after the first of the year.

Born and raised in Indiana, Tom taught school and coached for several years after graduating from college. In 1969, he went to work for the FBI, and was assigned to several locations in the South over a 5-year period. In 1974, he

accepted a position with the Forest Service in Butte as a criminal investigator covering the east side forests. He transferred to Missoula in 1979, covering the Bitterroot, Lolo, Flathead and Kootenai National Forests.

In 1983 Tom was selected as agent in charge of the Northern Region's law enforcement program and remained in that position until his retirement.

Tom and his wife Diane plan to remain at their home in Hamilton, Montana. They have a son in Butte and a daughter in Seattle. Tom has plenty of interests to keep him busy: following



Tom King

the Montana Grizzlies and Notre Dame football, river rafting, fishing and golfing.

A retirement party for Tom will be held on Thursday, February 3. Details will follow.

After 38 years with the Forest Service, **Dale Dufour**, program leader with the Regional Office's Public and Governmental Relations, decided to pull the plug December 31.

Dale saw lots of changes in the agency in those 38 years, some of which he instigated. A native of Moline, Illinois, Dale was a college student in forestry when he first worked for Forest Service. "I was a seasonal for the Intermountain Station in Ogden, Utah, and I traveled all over western Montana and north Idaho in the job," Dale recalled. "It was then I decided that Region One was where I wanted to be." He got the chance: his first permanent position was as a forester for the Kingston Ranger District (1962-65), Coeur d'Alene National Forest.

Dale moved on to the Magruder Ranger District (1965-69), Bitterroot National Forest, where, as a resource assistant, he was first exposed to the challenges of wilderness management. He dealt with issues related to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and the Idaho Primitive Area (soon to be the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness) and the newly created Wild and Scenic Rivers program.

After a brief stint at the Philipsburg Ranger District (1969-70), Deerlodge National Forest, as a recreation lands forester, Dale returned to wilderness management at the Condon Ranger District (1970-73), Flathead National Forest. He was hired as a wilderness forester, the first position of its kind in Region One. He was responsible for coordinating management of the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Mission Mountains Primitive Area (which became a wilderness while Dale was at Condon). From 1973-75, Dale served as an assistant forest planner in Kalispell for the Flathead National Forest.

After 1975, Dale's career took him into public affairs. He was a public affairs specialist for R-6's Siuslaw National Forest (1976-78); R-4's Boise National Forest (1979-87); and the Regional Office in Missoula (1987-99). During this phase, Dale played a big role in setting up information centers



Dale Dufour

during fire seasons. In Missoula, he worked with the Aerial Fire Depot to organize communications during heavy fire seasons.

In the RO, he made a big difference in streamlining the approval process for publications—no longer a nightmare, thanks to Dale. "I saw my job as a way to help the forests," Dale said, "and I always tried to remember that."

His residence in Lolo, Montana, won't change with retirement, but his focus will. As Dale put it, "My object now is to have fun, to do what I want to do." Some of those things will be golfing, mountain biking, and kayaking. Dale has a sea kayak and put 180 miles of paddling in this past summer. Armed with a GPS unit, he plans to chalk up more miles and more fun.

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

AMOS, JEFFREY, supervisory biological scientist, SO, performance award
 DIES, DIXIE, public affairs staff officer, SO, performance award
 GAUL, ROYLENE, legal instrument examiner, SO, quality step increase
 HEALD, SUSAN, forest planner, SO, time limited promotion
 HORSTMAN, MARY, historian, SO, quality step increase
 ROSE, SUSAN, computer specialist, SO, promotion
 WAGNER, JOSHUA, survey technician, SO, performance award
 WILSON, MICHAEL, forester, Stevensville RD, performance award

New Employees

BEASON, JOYCE, social services asst., Anaconda JCC
 BROWN, BETH, cook, Trapper JCC
 FARLEY, STARR, nurse, Trapper JCC
 LANE, DARRELL, cook, Trapper JCC
 NEIDHARDT, TANYA, forestry technician, Sula RD
 PHILLIPS, ROBERT, social services asst., Anaconda JCC

Reassignments & Transfers

BALLARD, ELIZABETH, outdoor recreation planner, BLM, reassignment, biological scientist, Stevensville RD
 TROTTER, NANCY, office automation asst., RO, reassignment, BMA, Stevensville RD
 WILSON, TODD, supvy forestry technician, Livingston RD, reassignment, Sula RD

Reinstatements

ANDERSON, TERRI, civil engineer, SO

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

BECK, JOHN, engineering equipment operator, Clearwater NF SO, promotion,
 PERRY, GEORGE, engineering equipment operator, Clearwater NF SO, promotion,
 KEATING, LINNEA, assistant remote automated weather system coordinator, Clearwater NF SO, promotion.

DAKOTA PRAIRIE NATIONAL GRASSLANDS**New Employees**

BIEL, RACHELLE, office automation clerk, McKenzie RD
 HEUPEL, JEREMIA, office automation clerk, SO

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

BERGLAND, DOUGLAS, forester, SO, temporary promotion
 BRINKMAN, BILL, laborer, Spotted Bear RD, special act award
 DRAGOO, MICHELLE, planning team leader, Hungry Horse RD, temporary promotion
 FALCON, DAVID, engineering equipment operator leader, SO, special act award
 GRANRUD, KEITH, law enforcement officer, SO, promotion
 JACOBS, AMY, wildlife biologist, Tally Lake RD, promotion
 KABER, JUSTIN, laborer, SO, special act award
 LEHMAN, RAY, engineering equipment operator, SO, special act award
 ROBBINS, GERALD, law enforcement officer, SO, promotion
 RUSSELL, BRADLEY, civil engineering technician, SO, promotion
 TREAT, PATRICIA, personnel management specialist, promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

SCHRAEDER, DANIEL, info assistant, Swan Lake RD reassignment to SO
 SMITH, PAUL, forestry technician, Salmon Challis NF reassignment to Flathead NF, SO

Retirements

OSBORNE, GERALD, law enforcement officer, SO

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

FRENCH, SANDY, purchasing agt, from the L&C to the SO, promotion
 WALCH, LEN, fish biologist, SO, promotion

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

PENNY, DIANA, forestry tech (GIS), Priest Lake RD, temporary promotion,

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

DEARING, BONNIE public affairs officer, SO, promotion
 HERGETT, HARVEY, suprvy civil engineer, SO, promotion
 WELDON, GEORGE, deputy forest supervisor, SO, promotion

New Employees

GILBERT, RANDY, fire apprenticeship program, Rocky Mountain RD

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

BIRD, JERRY, district ranger, Nez Perce SO, promotion, to R9, Mark Twain NF, Doniphan-Eleven Point RD
 BORNIGER, RANDY, supervisory recreation specialist, Red River RD, temporary promotion,
 FULBRIGHT, ZANE, archeologist, Red River RD, promotion, to R1, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, SO
 JOHNSON, DAVID, budget analyst trainee, Nez Perce SO, career promotion,
 LOOMIS, GARY, trails specialist, Red River RD, temporary promotion,
 PHILLIPS, SUE, business management assistant, Clearwater RD, temporary promotion, to Red River RD

Reassignments & Transfers

KIELE, TERESA, purchasing agent, Nez Perce SO, reassignment, to R9, RO
 MELL, JEFF, forestry tech recreation, Moose Creek RD, reassignment, to R9, Huron-Manistee NF, Mio RD

REGIONAL OFFICE**Awards & Promotions**

EDWARDS, ROBIN, land law examiner, RMLH&W, promotion
 KRATVILLE, SANDRA, wildlife biologist, WWFRP, promotion
 MANNING, MARY, ecologist, EA&P, promotion
 NESSELROAD, PAUL, public & governmental involvement officer, P&GR, promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

WALKER, CLIFF, forester, F&R, reassignment

Retirements

DUFOUR, DALE, public affairs specilst, P&GR, retirement

IN MEMORIAM



Orilla James, 88, of Superior, Montana, died on October 29 at the Mineral Community Nursing Home. She was born June 24, 1911, in Salt Lake City. She moved with her family to Wyoming in 1922. Orilla married in 1928 and moved with her husband and children to Superior in 1944. She began working for the Superior Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, in 1971. For about 18 years Orilla worked as a lookout on Thompson Peak. (She was featured in the book *Fire Lookouts of the Northwest* by Ray Kresek.) In the spring and fall she planted trees with the district crew at Savenac Nursery.

Orilla is survived by two children, Helen Brockway and Jesse James.

Robert "Bob" Manchester, 80, died October 28, 1999 at the Missoula Hospice House. He was born June 21, 1919, near Preble, New York. After graduating from high school, he moved to Missoula to attend the University of Montana and pursue alpine skiing. During World War II, Bob enlisted in the Tenth Mountain Division, organized specifically for mountain warfare in Europe. In 1942 he was selected for the Columbia Icefield Expedition in Canada. He was later assigned to K Company, 87th Regiment at Camp Hale, Colorado. He took part in the amphibious landing in the attack of Kiska in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska in 1943. During his time in service, Bob was presented with the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. He was discharged in 1945.

Bob returned to Missoula after the war to complete his college degree. He worked as a smokejumper with the Forest Service from 1946-53. In 1954 he was assigned to the Division of Engineering as surveying and cartographic engineer; in 1955 to the Division of Recreation and Lands as a geologist; and in 1957 as a valuation engineer in the Minerals section. He was promoted to the position of branch chief of the minerals and geology branch for the region in 1961. He retired in 1980.

Bob is survived by his wife Joanne and their three sons: Ken, of Butte; Gary, of Littleton, Colorado; and Dale, a BLM employee who works in the building shared with the Lewis & Clark National Forest Supervisor's Office in Great Falls.

Rollo Perkins, 94, of Soap Lake, Washington, previously Princeton, Idaho, passed away October 28 at McKay Health Care and Rehab Center in Soap Lake.

Rollo was born in Brule, Wisconsin. After attending the University of Minnesota, he moved West and worked for the Forest Service at St. Maries and later Princeton, Idaho. He was an employee of IPNF for the major part of his life, from 1928 until his retirement in 1967. His work on the district work was in fire control, land exchanges, and trails. He was a timber technician at the time of his retirement.

According to former district ranger John Galea, the first edition of the history of the Palouse Ranger District was completed mainly due to his efforts of Rollo. He furnished information, photographs, and valuable records that made the history possible.

Rollo and his wife Helen made their home primarily in Princeton. He is survived by a son, Forrest, of Horse Branch, Kentucky, and a daughter, Priscilla Johnson Asker of Soap Lake.

Kansie Starcher, 64, died November 19 at her home in Missoula. A native of Marietta, Georgia, Kansie served in the Women's Army Corps from 1955-58. She married in 1959 and moved with her husband and family eventually to Missoula where she initially worked in a bank. Kansie became an employee of the Regional Office of the Northern Region in 1976 in the Personnel Management unit. She retired in April 30, 1994, after 23 years of service.

She was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her five children: Lt. Col. Rebecca Davis of Fayette, North Carolina; Lt. Col. James Starcher, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Danielle Fanslow, Nine Mile Falls, Washington; Jacki Starcher, Missoula; and Valerie Starcher, Missoula.

In the Past...

Almost the very day the last NRN was forwarded to employees, we received a note from **Diane Brower**, with the Clearwater National Forest. She correctly identified the back page photo as Pierce, Idaho, the former headquarters for the Pierce Ranger District. There is still a Pierce district, but the office is now in Kamiah. Diane said her friend Dorie Fitzwater recently paid a visit to Pierce and had this to say:

"Pierce as we knew it in 1925 was noted for the gold mining and log drives. Times have changed. The (decline of the) logging industry has taken a toll and has been a hardship on families who have singly depended on timber as their source of income. The average population is now around 845 people.

However, community members have worked hard in writing grants and raising money to update and stay modernized. Pierce today has two parks, one grocery store, one convenience store, one post office, one bank, four restaurants, five

saloons, five churches, one community center, a few businesses, one motel and three separate outfitters that offer overnight lodging with recreation accommodations."


We also heard from **James Covert**, a former Forest Service employee who now lives in Harrington, Washington. Mr. Covert wrote that "when I started working for the F.S., it was 1955 and I worked at a camp close to Pierce."

Delmar Radtke stopped by to say that in 1953 he and his family were living in an apartment in Pierce, overlooking the main street. Del said that "Bernie Swift, the assistant ranger at Pierce, lived down the hill, in one of the buildings shown in the photograph." Del was working for the Canyon Ranger District when living in Pierce. He worked as the Canyon District Ranger from 1958-62.

Al Squires, from Yorba Linda, California, wrote to say he worked in Pierce with the B.R.C. (Blister Rust Control) from 1948-66. "It was really a booming town in the 50's with the F.S. and Dept of Interior B.R.C. crews there."

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Permit No. G-40

The Northern Region News
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807
 Official Use - Penalty for Private Use \$300